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News from District Eight



US 27 SAFETY CORRIDOR BLITZ

State and local officials gathered at McCreary County's border with Tennessee to kickoff the District 8 Operation Drive Smart Blitz on US 27.

The blitz ran February 5 through February 12 from the Tennessee state line to the Lincoln-Garrard County line. Local and state law enforcement officers utilized traffic control measures to reduce speeding, improper passing, and other aggressive, reckless, and hazardous traffic violations. Other violations relating to seatbelts, child passenger safety, and expired or no liability insurance were strictly enforced. The blitz was a year-long work in progress with partnership between the Transportation Cabinet, local area development districts, schools, local and state officials and enforcement, as well as concerned citizens.

Drive Smart visual speed radar units were placed along the entire corridor to remind motorists to be aware of their speed and comply with the posted speed limit. Enforcement was inflated to make everyone aware to slow down and drive safe.

From 2003 - 2005, crashes along the corridor in each of the three counties were as follows:

- McCreary County - 252 collisions, 9 fatalities, 178 injuries
- Pulaski County - 1629 collisions, 9 fatalities, 501 injuries
- Lincoln County - 293 collisions, 6 fatalities, 173 injuries

US 27 is one of 13 corridors in the state designated as "high crash areas."

The Transportation Cabinet, along with other agencies throughout the state, want to make sure these crashes do not continue to increase by providing education and awareness programs such as the Safety Corridor Blitz in each district of the state.

Drive Smart educational programs are such an important part of the blitz reaching children, teens and adults. In the past year members of the Drive Smart team surveyed each high school along the corridor and observed firsthand how many young drivers wear seatbelts. "Buckle Up" signs were installed at the exits of school parking lots reminding teen drivers to buckle up. Vince and Larry, the crash dummies, and the Drive Smart Bear visited elementary schools to teach children the positives of being restrained. And child passenger safety seat inspections were conducted throughout the year.